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PART 2.

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TRANSACTIONS OF THE SOCIETY FOR BRITISH ENTOMOLOGY

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A REVISION OF THE BRITISH SPECIES OF THE GENUS *HYGROCRYPTUS* THOMS. (HYM., ICHNEUMONIDAE, CRYPTINI).

By G. J. KERRICH, M.A., F.L.S., F.R.E.S.
(Dept. of Zoology, University of Glasgow).

In the Cryptini the genera are rather closely related. Throughout the group, the males are far less stable than the females, and many characters that are good for the separation of the females are in the males much more variable : *Hygrocryptus* is no exception to this rule.

This revision does not attempt to be of a monographic nature, but is an account of the most important synonymy, and of the characters that seem to me important in the discrimination of the species, although one species has had to be discussed at greater length.

DIAGNOSIS OF GENUS.

1868, *Aritranis* Förster, *Verh. naturh. Ver. preuss. Rheinl.* **25**: 187.

1873, *Hygrocryptus* Thomson, Opuscula Entomologica **5**: 513.

1896, *Hygrocryptus* (subgenera *Aritranis* and *Hygrocryptus*) Thomson, Opuscula Entomologica **21**: 2376.

1914, *Hygrocryptus* Viereck, *Bull. U.S. nat. Mus.* **83**: 73.

As observed by Thomson (1896, p. 2376), it is practically certain that by *Aritranis* Förster meant *carnifex* Grav. ; and it would have been natural to use this generic name. Tschek (1870, p. 156), however, put forward a different interpretation, which was also noted by Thomson (1896, pp. 2372-3). It is unfortunate that Viereck (1914, p. 15) followed Tschek's interpretation, and selected *explorator* Tschek as the type of *Aritranis*.[1]

[1] I am grateful to Mr. J. F. Perkins for pointing this out to me, for I had used the name *Aritranis*.

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For the genus under consideration the name *Hygrocryptus* Thoms. must, therefore, be used: type *H. carnifex* Grav., by designation of Viereck (1914, p. 73).

The following combination of characters separates *Hygrocryptus* from all other European Cryptini except *Spilocryptus* Thoms., *Gambrus* Först., and *Hoplocryptus* Thoms.: — head not cubical. Mesoscutum declived in front, with notaulices strong or moderately strong and not very short. Forewing with radial cell relatively short: areolet with sides never strongly convergent: lower outer angle of discoidal cell obtuse, and not extending outward to beyond apex of areolet. Abdomen white-marked.

From the three aforementioned genera, *Hygrocryptus* is distinguished by the apical tarsal segment, which is large, explanate to apex, longer than the second segment in female and often so in male, and which bears very large claws and pulvilli; and by the swollen fore tibiae of the female. Some species are further distinguished from *Spilocryptus* and *Gambrus* by the median clypeal tooth.

So far as is known, all species of this genus parasitise lepidopterous larvae which live in reed stems.

Key to Species.

1. Claws of moderate size: segment 5 of ♀ hind tarsus distinctly shorter than segments 3-4 united ..... 2.
   Claws relatively large: segment 5 of ♀ hind tarsus about equal to or longer than segments 3-4 united ..... 3.
2. Areolet closed: nervellus intercepted in centre: scutellum white: gaster with segments 1-6 more or less black .... *Hoplocryptus signatorius* Fabr.
   Areolet open: nervellus intercepted well below centre: scutellum not white: gaster with segments 1-4 red ..... *rufus* Morl.
3. Clypeus apically unidentate: stigma of wing generally pale ..... (subgenus *Aritranis* (Först.) Thoms. 1896). 4.
   Clypeus apically truncate: stigma of wing generally dark ..... (subgenus *Hygrocryptus* Thoms. 1896). 5.
4. Spiracles of propodeum oval: petiolar spiracles prominent: segment 5 of ♀ hind tarsus about two-thirds length of segments 2-4 united ..... *carnifex* Grav.
   Spiracles of propodeum subcircular: petiolar spiracles of ♀ not prominent, of ♂ less so: segment 5 of ♀ hind tarsus about equal to segments 3-4 united ..... *palustris* Thoms.
5. Gaster strongly punctate: fore tibiae not emarginate beneath: propodeum strongly bidentate ..... *leucopygus* Grav.
   Gaster finely punctate: fore tibiae emarginate beneath; propodeum not strongly bidentate ..... *brevispina* Thoms.

Description of Species.

signatorius Fabr. (*Hoplocryptus*).

1793, *Ichneumon signatorius* Fabricius, Entomologia Systematica **2**: 135.

1804, *Cryptus signatorius* Fabricius, Systema Piezatorum: 71.

1829, *Cryptus melanocephalus* Gravenhorst, Ichneumonologia Europaea **2**: 629-30.

1829, *Ichneumon signatorius* Gravenhorst, Ichneumonologia Europaea **3**: 892-3.

1873, *Hoplocryptus pulcher* Thomson, Opuscula Entomologica **5**: 509.

1896, *Hoplocryptus pulcher* Thomson, Opuscula Entomologica **21**: 2370.

1902, *Cryptus signatorius* Dalla Torre, Catalogus Hymenopterorum **3**: 589.

1902, *Hoplocryptus pulcher* Dalla Torre, Catalogus Hymenopterorum **3**: 609.

1904, *Hoplocryptus pulcher* Schmiedeknecht, Opuscula Ichneumonologica **2**: 537.

1904, *Hygrocryptus melanocephalus* Schmiedeknecht, Opuscula Ichneumonologica **2**: 558.

1907, *Aritranis signatorius* Morley, British Ichneumons **2**: 294-5.

1912, *Hoplocryptus signatorius* Roman, *Zool. Bidr. Uppsala* **1**: 279.

1924, *Hoplocryptus signatorius* Roman, *Ark. Zool.* **17a** (4): 3.

1926, *Hoplocryptus signatorius* Habermehl, *Zeit. wiss. Insektenbiol.* **3**: 103, 151.

1931, *Hoplocryptus signatorius* Schmiedeknecht, Opuscula Ichneumonologica Neubearbeitungen **2**, fasc. 11 : 9-10.

Morley (1907) placed this species doubtfully in the genus now under consideration, but I follow Continental authors in placing it in *Hoplocryptus*. Its known hosts are Aculeate Hymenoptera.

rufus Morl.

1907, *Aritranis rufus* Morley, British Ichneumons **2**: 293-4.

The specimen from the Marshall collection in the British Museum differs from Morley's description as follows: more red-marked, with red propodeum. Gaster with segments 1-4 alutaceous : terebra more than half length of gaster. Wings with a distant dark fascia below the stigma.

It is also to be observed that the head is strongly narrowed behind the eyes. The fore tibiae are inflated and gradually contracted basally as in *carnifex* Grav. Length of segment 5 of hind tarsus is as length of segments 3-4 united as 1 : 1·4.

Morley (1907), while placing this species in the genus now under consideration, states that the open areolet allies it to *Hemiteles,* and reminds us of its normal apical tarsal segment. Schmiedeknecht (1931) states quite arbitrarily 'Der von Morley aufgestellte rätselhafte *Hygrocryptus rufus* gehört gar nicht zu dieser Gattung,' but gives us no positive indication of its affinities. It seems to me to share the general fascies of the two genera, but I can come to no further conclusion.

carnifex Grav.

1829, *Cryptus carnifex* Gravenhorst, Ichneumonologia Europaea **2**: 631.

1873, *Hygrocryptus carnifex* Thomson, Opuscula Entomologica **5**: 513-4.

1896, *Hygrocryptus carnifex* Thomson, Opuscula Entomologica **21**: 2376.

1902, *Aritranis carnifex* Dalla Torre, Catalogus Hymenopterorum **3**: 612-3.

1904, *Hygrocryptus carnifex* Schmiedeknecht, Opuscula Ichneumonologica **2**: 556-7.

1907, *Aritranis carnifex* Morley, British Ichneumons **2**: 293.

1909, *Hygrocryptus carnifex* Ulbricht, *Deuts. ent. Z.* **53**: 783.

1914, *Hygrocryptus leucopygus* Pfankuch, *Jahresh. Ver. schles. Insektenkunde* **7**: 22 (err.).

1931, *Hygrocryptus leucopygus* Schmiedeknecht, Opuscula Ichneumonologica Neubearbeitungen **2**, fasc. 11: 42-3.

1935, *Hygrocryptus carnifex* Hedwig, *Z. Ent. Breslau* **17** (4): 13.

This is the commonest and best-known species, and has for long been known under the name of *carnifex* Grav. Pfankuch (1914) synonymised it with *leucopygus* Grav. and Schmiedeknecht (1931) has followed this view: but Hedwig (1935) has found this to be incorrect, so the name *carnifex* Grav. stands. Through the kindness of Professor F. Pax, I have been able to examine both types in the Breslau Museum and can confirm Hedwig's findings.

Head about two and a half times as broad as medially long: clypeus apically unidentate. Notaulices moderately strongly impressed, sternaulices and mesolcus strong impressed. Propodeum with both transverse keels strong: area superomedia indicated; area basalis broader than long: spiracles oval. Petiolar segment strongly explanate to prominent spiracles, more nearly parallel-sided behind; with dorsal keels distinct to spiracles, indistinct beyond. Gaster alutaceous, with a few fine punctures. Wing with stigma pale; areolet laterally generally parallel-sided.

♀. Antennae basally clear red. Segments 1-3 of gaster red, in type also apical mark on segment 4, segment 1 sometimes partly black; segment 7 mostly white, segment 8 also white-marked. Fore tibiae gradually contracted basally, not emarginate beneath. Segment 5 of hind tarsus about two-thirds length of 2-4 united; segments 3 and 4 not white.

♂. Gaster with segments 1-3 and base of 4 red; segments 6-8 partly white. Hind tarsus with segments 3 and 4 entirely white.

This species is probably widely distributed in Britain, though records are few. Hancock (1925) collected it on Wicken Fen, and I and several of my contemporaries have also taken it there. Dr. Haines has a female specimen from Christchurch, Hants, bred from *Nonagria geminipuncta* Hatch. by the late Mr. A. Druitt. I took both sexes, 10.viii.1933, on Wood Marsh, South Haven Peninsula (Studland), Dorset.

palustris Thoms. (?=*conjugens* Tschek).

1870, *Cryptus conjugens* Tschek, *Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* **20**: 428.

1873, *Hygrocryptus palustris* Thomson, Opuscula Entomologica **5**: 514-5.

1896, *Hygrocryptus palustris* Thomson, Opuscula Entomologica **21**: 2376.

1902, *Hoplocryptus conjugens* Dalla Torre, Catalogus Hymenopterorum **3**: 608.

1902, *Aritranis palustris* Dalla Torre, Catalogus Hymenopterorum **3**: 613.

1931, *Hygrocryptus conjugens* Schmiedeknecht, Opuscula Ichneumonologica Neubearbeitungen **2**, fasc. 11: 44.

This species has not yet been recorded in this country; but it was described by Thomson from south Sweden and Denmark, so it is likely to occur in Britain. Tschek's description of his unique female type from Galicia agrees very well with Thomson's specimens: I think it extremely probable that Schmiedeknecht was correct in making this synonymy, though he has omitted the shape of the spiracles of the propodeum and other important characters mentioned by Tschek (1870). Through the kindness of Dr. N. A. Kemner, I have been able to examine the syntypes in the Lund Museum.

Rather similar to *carnifex* Grav., differing as follows: sculpture of head and thorax less fine: basal flagellar segments relatively somewhat shorter: spiracles of propodeum subcircular: petiolar segment with stronger keels, gradually explanate to well beyond spiracles, which are in female not prominent, in male less prominent.

♀. Clypeus with blunter tooth. Sternaulices and mesolcus less strongly impressed: scutellum more strongly convex. Keels of propodeum stronger. Sides of areolet convergent. Segment 5 of hind tarsus about equal in length to segments 3-4 united. Antennae black, without white ring: propodeum and petiole black: coxae and base of trochanters black.

♂. In the Thomson collection are two males placed as *carnifex* which seem to me to belong to this species. As I have already stated, the males are in this genus much more variable than the females, but I consider these two as *palustris* on account of the sculpture of the head and thorax, the shape of the propodeal spiracles, and the form of the petiolar segment. The localities are Örtofta (near Lund) and Stockholm.

In the Copenhagen Museum are specimens[2] attributed to *carnifex* with black propodeum, with the spiracles of the propodeum less elongate than in typical specimens, the mesoscutum less finely sculptured, and the petiolar segment approaching that of *palustris* in conformation. It is, therefore, possible that *palustris* is only an extreme variety of *carnifex*; but I incline to the view that the species are really distinct, and that hybridisation is not infrequent in localities where both species occur.

leucopygus Grav.

1829, *Hoplismenus leucopygus* Gravenhorst, Ichneumonologia Europaea **2**: 429-30.

1856, *Cryptus elegans* Desvignes, Catalogue: 57.

1873, *Hygrocryptus Drewseni* Thomson, Opuscula Entomologica **5**: 514.

1896, *Hygrocryptus Drewseni* Thomson, Opuscula Entomologica **21**: 2376-7.

1902, *Aritranis drewsenii* Dalla Torre, Catalogus Hymenopterorum **3**: 613.

1902, *Hoplismenus leucopygus* Dalla Torre, Catalogus Hymenopterorum **3**: 1026.

1904, *Hygrocryptus Drewseni* Schmiedeknecht, Opuscula Ichneumonologica **2**: 558.

1907, *Aritranis elegans* Morley, British Ichneumons **2**: 292-3.

1909, *Hygrocryptus Drewseni* Ulbricht, *Deuts. ent. Z.* **53**: 783.

1914, *Hygrocryptus leucopygus* Pfankuch, *Jahresh. Ver. schles. Insektenkunde* **7**: 22.

1929, *Hygrocryptus elegans* Habermehl, *Konowia* **8** (3): 262.

1931, *Hygrocryptus Drewseni* Schmiedeknecht, Opuscula Ichneumonologica Neubearbeitungen **2**, fasc. 11: 44.

[2] 2 ♀♀, Viborg, Schiødte; 1 ♀, Horsens, O. Jensen. Both localities are in Jutland.

1935, *Hygrocryptus leucopygus* Hedwig, *Z. Ent. Breslau* **17** (4): 13.

I have examined all three types: *leucopygus* Grav. male in Breslau, *elegans* Desv. male in the British Museum, and *drewseni* Thoms. syntypes in Copenhagen (through the kindness of Dr. K. Henriksen). Thomson's doubt of the *elegans—drewseni* synonymy was simply due to the sex of Desvigne's type.

Head about two and a quarter times as broad as medially long: clypeus apically truncate. Notaulices very strongly impressed: sternaulices strongly impressed. Propodeum with hind keel medially weak: area superomedia indicated: area basalis longer than broad: spiracles oval. Petiolar segment gradually explanate almost to apex; with dorsal keels distinct to spiracles, which are not prominent. Gaster strongly punctate. Wings with stigma dark: areolet laterally slightly convergent.

♀. Antennae basally black, the basal segments basally narrowly dull red (*cf.* Morley, 1907, p. 292). Segments 1-3 of gaster red, 3 apically black; segment 7 broadly white-marked. Fore tibiae suddenly contracted basally, but not emarginate beneath. Segment 5 of hind tarsus about equal in length to 2-4 united, generally with segments 3 completely and 4 basally white.

♂. Gaster with segments 1-3 and base of 4 red: segments 6 and 7 white-marked (5 also according to Habermehl). Hind tarsus with segments 3 entirely and 4, except apically, white.

I have not taken this species myself, and know of no recent British records.[3]

brevispina Thoms.

(=*puhlmanni* Ulbricht — synonymy new).

1896, *Hygrocryptus brevispina* Thomson, Opuscula Entomologica **21**: 2377.

1909, *Hygrocryptus Puhlmanni* Ulbricht, *Deuts. ent. Z.* **53**: 783.

1926, *Hygrocryptus Puhlmanni* Ulbricht, *Mitteil. d. Naturw. Mus. Crefeld*: 6.

1931, *Hygrocryptus Puhlmanni* Schmiedeknecht, Opuscula Ichneumonologica Neubearbeitungen **2**, fasc. 11: 41-2.

Type ♂ labelled '6.viii. Triest' in Thomson collection, Lund. Holotype ♀, allotype ♂, and other specimens of *puhlmanni*, including two colour varieties with manuscript names, in mus. Crefeld: Professor H. Bischoff was so kind as to borrow these, so that I was able to examine them in Berlin.

[3] Since the above was sent to the editor, I have received a male specimen for confirmation from Mr. A. W. Stelfox. He took it on wild carrot beside a reed-bed at Curracloe, Co. Wexford, 17.vii.1937. I have compared it with the British Museum specimen which I compared with the type in September, 1936: it is unusually dark, but structurally typical.

Head about twice as broad as medially long: clypeus apically truncate. Notaulices very strongly impressed: sternaulices and mesolcus moderately strongly impressed. Propodeum with hind keel weak, medially incomplete: area superomedia scarcely indicated: area basalis much longer than broad: spiracles almost circular. Petiolar segment gradually explanate to apex, in male almost parallel-sided; the dorsal keels are in a marginal position (not quite so in male), so that the segment appears almost smooth dorsally. Gaster finely punctate. Wings with stigma dark: areolet laterally slightly convergent.

♀. Antennae basally dark, generally black; apically curiously blunt. Gaster with segments 1-2 and 3 basally red; segments 5-7 white-marked; often with small white marks also on segments 4 and 8. Fore tibiae suddenly contracted basally, emarginate beneath. Segment 5 of hind tarsus nearly equal in length to 2-4 united; segments 3 and 4 partly white.

♂. Gaster strongly shining, usually with segments 1-3 and base of 4 red, but segment 5 may be partly red, or all segments may be partly black: segments 4-7 or 5-7 white-marked. Hind tarsus with segments 3 and 4 white, apically dark.

According to Ulbricht (1909), the third segment of the male gaster is almost twice as broad as long in *leucopygus* Grav., longer than broad in this species. No doubt the relative breadth is always greater in *leucopygus* than in *brevispina*: but in a male specimen of *leucopygus* from the Marshall collection the length to apical breadth is as 1 : 1·6; while in a male specimen of *brevispina* Thoms. from Oswitz, Breslau (K. Hedwig), kindly lent me by Dr. A. Roman, the proportion is 1 : 1·25.

Habermehl (1918, p. 288) synonymises *puhlmanni* Ulbricht with *praedator* Rossi; but Ulbricht states that this is an error, though he gives but few characters for their separation. A female specimen placed in the Gravenhorst collection as *praedator* seems to me to be a large dark specimen of *leucopygus* Grav.

Than the English and German specimens I have seen, the type is slightly smaller, lighter and more strongly punctate; but a direct comparison of six male specimens showed considerable variation in these respects, so I am convinced that no specific distinction is indicated (synonymy new).

It is clear that Thomson did not intend his name for his 'species of little worth' to be considered as more than a manuscript name, but he has validated it (see Ferris, 1928, pp. 147-8), and it must stand.

I have before me sixteen[4] specimens of this species, which

[4] Since writing the above, I find that two females were also taken at Wicken Fen, 28.vi.1936 (the occasion of the Society's congress excursion), by Mr. W. H. T. Tams: these were provisionally referred to *puhlmanni* Ulbricht by Mr. J. F. Perkins. This species is, therefore, established as British upon eighteen specimens.

is new to the British list : Wicken Fen, Cambs., 1 ♀, 9.vii.1924, G. L. R. Hancock (det. O. Schmiedeknecht as *carnifex* Grav.) ; 1 ♂, 3.vi. 1933, G. C. Varley ; 1 ♀, 8.vii.1934, G.J.K. ; 4 ♂♂, 28.vi.1936, G.J.K. ; 2 ♀♀, 28.vi.1936, W. D. Hincks and J. R. Dibb ; 2 ♀♀, one bred from stem of *Phragmites*, F. S. J. Hollick: Chippenham Fen, Cambs., 1 ♂, 1.vi.1935, G.J.K. : Morden, Dorset, 1 ♀ with black propodeum, 29.vi.1918, F. H. Haines, recorded as ? *Gambrus* near *ornatus* Grav. (Haines, 1931): Wood Marsh, South Haven Peninsula (Studland), Dorset, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 25.vi.1937, G.J.K.

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———— 1926. Neiderrheinischen Ichneumoniden. 4. Nachtrag. *Mitteil. d. Naturw. Mus. Crefeld*: 1-32.

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EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

Left fore tibia of female, seen from behind, of

Fig. 1.—*H. palustris* Thoms.

,, 2.—*H. carnifex* Grav.

,, 3.—*H. leucopygus* Grav.

,, 4.—*H. brevispina* Thoms.

Left hind tarsus, with only apex of metatarsus, of female of

Fig. 5.—*H. palustris* Thoms.

,, 6.—*H. carnifex* Grav.

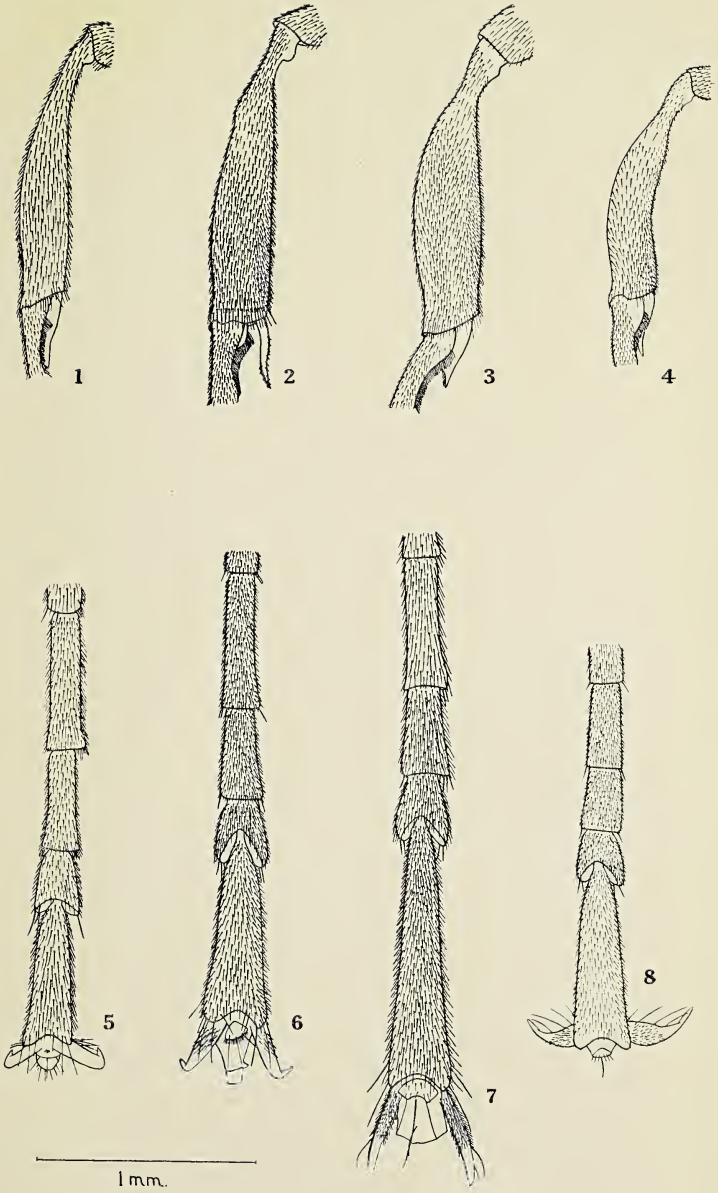
,, 7.—*H. leucopygus* Grav.

,, 8.—*H. brevispina* Thoms.

Figures of *palustris* from a specimen in the Berlin University Museum, of *leucopygus* from a specimen in the British Museum, and of *carnifex* and *brevispina* from specimens in the Cambridge University Museum.

(G. J. Kerrich *del.*)

PLATE VI.



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